Bulletin of the TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 25
NUMBER 1

JUNE–JULY 1992

BULLETIN OF THE

TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 25 1992 No. 1

Contents

Texas Bird Records Committee Report for 1991. *Carl B. Haynie* 2

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) Utilization of Electric Power Substations in Houston (Harris County), Texas, and Vicinity. *Robert A. Honig* 13

Waterbird and Raptor Utilization of Sedimentation Ponds at Gibbons Creek Lignite Mine. *Bolton Williams, Donald Plitt and Paul Harris* 20

Short Communications

Do Northern Harriers Deliberately Flush Quarry in Front of Oncoming Vehicles? *Steve West* 26

Loggerhead Shrike Kills Common Ground-Dove. *Stanley D. Casto* 27

Notes and News ..... Inside Back Cover

Texas Bird Records Committee Report for 1991

Carl B. Haynie

737 Meadow Crest Road, Azle, Texas 76020

This report contains the decisions of the Texas Bird Records Committee (hereafter "TBRC" or "committee") of the Texas Ornithological Society reached during 1991. For information on previous actions of the TBRC, see Arnold (1984 and 1985) and Lasley (1988, 1989, 1990, 1991). The TBRC requests and reviews documentation on any record of a Texas Review Species (see end of report) as well as any record of any species if requested to do so by a member of the TBRC. Some of the records submitted to the TBRC during 1991 were gleaned from old *American Birds* or Christmas Bird Count files; thus some portion of the work of the committee during 1991 was to catch up on older records. The TBRC reached a final decision on 142 records during 1991: 93 records of 47 species were accepted and 49 records of 34 species were not accepted, an acceptance rate of 65% for this report. There were 199 observers who submitted documentation (to the TBRC or to other entities) that was reviewed by the committee during 1991.

This report officially adds 8 species to the Texas state list: White-chinned Petrel, Harlequin Duck, Iceland Gull, Monk Parakeet, Masked Tityra, White-throated Robin, Yellow-faced Grassquit, and Shiny Cowbird. The TBRC had previously voted to add Monk Parakeet since it was agreed that several populations of this species in Texas meet the strict criteria for well-established introduced species. At its annual meeting in February, 1991, the TBRC voted to remove Antillean Crested Hummingbird from the state list since questions continue to abound on the origin of the 1967 specimen. Red-necked Grebe and Bohemian Waxwing were placed on the newly-formed Presumptive Species List (see Lasley 1991), thus removing them from the official state list until a photograph or specimen is obtained for at least one record. During 1991, the committee also voted to add White-crowned Pigeon and Slate-throated Redstart as new presumptive species. The above actions brought the official Texas state list at the end of 1991 to 582 species in good standing and the Presumptive Species List to 4 species. There were several records that will complete circulation through the TBRC in 1992 that will represent new Texas species.

The TBRC solicits reports of any species on the Review List as well as any species not previously accepted for Texas. We desire written descriptions as well as photographs and tape recordings if available. If anyone has information concerning a Review Species but is unsure how to submit that information please contact any member of the TBRC or contact the committee secretary, Greg Lasley, 305 Loganberry Court, Austin, Texas 78745-6527. For helpful pointers and guidelines on preparing rare bird documentation, readers are encouraged to review "How to Document Rare Birds," a recently published article in *Birding* (see Dittmann and Lasley 1992).

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following *The AOU Checklist of North American Birds* (AOU 1983) as currently supplemented. A number in parentheses after the species name represents the total number of

accepted records in Texas for that species at the end of 1991. This number will be listed for all Review Species, but not for records of other species (see end of report). Within each species the records are listed chronologically. All observers who submitted written documentation or photos of accepted records are listed by initials. If known, the initials of those who discovered a particular bird are in **boldface** (assuming the discoverer submitted a description). There has been no attempt to list all observers who saw a particular bird. The TBRC file number of each accepted record will follow the observer's(s') initials. This number consists of the year the record was originally submitted to the committee followed by a dash then a number. If photos are on file with the TBRC, the Texas Photo Record File (TPRF) (Texas A&M University) number is also given. If a tape recording of the bird is on file with the TBRC, the Texas Bird Sounds Library (TBSL) (Sam Houston State University) number is also given. Specimen records are denoted with an asterisk (*) followed by the institution where the specimen is housed and the catalog number if available. The information in each account is usually based on the information provided in the original submitted documentation; however, in some cases we have supplemented this with a full range of dates the bird(s) was present if that information was made available to us later. All locations in *italics* are counties.

TBRC Membership.—Members of the TBRC during 1991 who participated in all decisions listed in this report are: Ted Eubanks, Chairman, Keith Arnold, Academician, Greg Lasley, Secretary, John Arvin, Jim Morgan, Warren Pulich, Chuck Sexton, and Barry Zimmer. During 1991, Warren Pulich retired from the committee and Carl Haynie and Bret Whitney were elected as members.

Contributors.—Lynne Aldrich (LAl), Tony Amos, Margaret Anderson (MAn), Ben Archer (BAr), Nanette Armstrong, John Arvin, Brooks Atherton, Lyn Atherton, Mike Austin, Larry Ballard, Sharon Bartels, Bob Behrstock, Charles Bender (CBe), Chris Benesch, Tony Bennett (TBe), Peter Billingham, Mike Bishop (MBi), Norman Boke, L. D. Bonham, Carolyn Bonner (CBo), E. Bonner, Ann Booth, Ray Booth (RBo), Michael Bornstein, Thomas Boyle, David Bradford (DBr), Ron Braun, Edward Brinkley (EBr), David Brotherton, Kelly Bryan, John Buckman, Frank Bumgardner, Oscar Carmona, Will Carter (WCa), Russ Clapper (RCl), William Clark, Charlie Clark, Caroline Coleman (CCo), Sherry Collins, Tom Collins, Fred Collins, Dawn Conway, Mark Conway (MCo), Arlie Cooksey, Mel Cooksey, Richard Cudworth, Mark Conway (MCo), Arlie Cooksey, Mel Cooksey, Richard Cudworth, Ross Currie (RCu), Ward Dasey, David Dauphin, Bob DeGraaf, Mike Denny, Dave DeSante (DDe), Laurel Devaney, Arch Dillard, Henrik Druid, Jon Dunn, Charles Easley, Kim Eckert, Karen Edelson (KEd), El Paso Audubon Society (EPAS), Victor Emanuel, Myrna Engle, Midge Erskine (MEr), Ted Eubanks, Virginia Eubanks (VEu), John Eyre, Mike Farmer, Rose Farmer, Andy Farnsworth, T. Ben Feltner (TBF), Harold Fetter, David Fisher (DaF), Dean Fisher, Mark Flippo (MFl), Jim Flynn, Lynn Forster, Phyllis Frank, Tony Frank, Richard Frederick (RFr), Emery Froelich, Leo Galloway, Louise Gambill (LoG), Red Gambill, Barbara Garland, John Gee, Peter Gottschling, William Graber, Mary Gustafson, Sharon Hackleman, D. M. Hagemeyer, Bruce Hallett, George Harmon, Bernice Hayes (BHa), Jim Hayes (JHa), Vernon Hayes, Laurens Halsey, Robert Hanson, Ed Hase, Carl Haynie, Rhandy Helton (RHe), James Hines, Malcolm Hodges, Bob Honig (BHo), Faye Humphrey, Joe Ideker, Pete Isleib,

Lamar Jackson (LJa), Carolyn Jenus, Tom Jenus, Margaret Jones, Paul Jones, Larry Jordan, Kenn Kaufman, Steve Kerr (SKe), Greg Keiran, Robbins King (RoK), Richard Kinney, Jane Kittleman, Sandy Komito, Theodore Koundakjian, Mike Krzywonski, Jeri Langham, Greg Lasley, Phil Lenna, Mike Lippsmeyer (MLi), Mark Lockwood, Gerald Maisel (GMa), Laurette Maisel, Guy McCaskie, Patti Sue McCrary (PSM), Elric McHenry, Margaret McIntosh, Ruthie Melton, Bob Menten, James Middleton (JMi), Kenneth Moore, Pete Moore, Arnold Moorehouse (AMo), Jim Morgan (JiM), Jack Morman, Allan Mueller, John Muldrow (JMu), Derek Muschalek, Kenneth Nanney, Ron Naveen, Pete Neumann, A. W. O'Neil, Brent Ortego, Paul Palmer, John Parmeter, Helen Parker, Max Parker (MaP), Mike Patterson, Dick Payne, Mike Perkins (MPe), Bruce Peterjohn, R. Matthew Pettigrew, Tom Pincelli, Patrick Pitt (PPi), C. G. Potter (CGP), Warren Pulich, Sr., Warren Pulich, Jr., Ross Rasmussen, Scott Rea, J. V. Remsen (JVR), Barbara Ribble, Jan Risser, Will Risser, Phil Rostron, Bob Rothe (BRo), Rose Ann Rowlett (RAR), Steve Sabo (SSa), Winnie M. Sarne (WMS), Willie Sekula, John Selle (JSe), August Sexauer (ASe), Chuck Sexton, Kenneth Seyffert, Al Smalley, Gwen Smalley, Lynda Snyder, Sharon Stark, Jerry Strickling, Colin Summerhayes (CSu), John Tveten, Richard Uzar, Hilda Waggoner, Vental Waggoner, Gene Warren, Ro Wauer, Ed Wetzel, Matt White, John Whittle, Sue Wiedenfeld, Doug Williams, Frances Williams, Stephen G. Williams (SGW), Alan Worthington, Barry Zimmer, Christopher Zyskowski.

Acknowledgments.—The TBRC is very grateful to the many contributors listed above, without whom this report would not be possible. We would also like to offer our sincere thanks to the following consultants who provided the TBRC with expert opinion, advice, or other information concerning records reviewed during 1991: David Ainley, Richard Banks, Eric Bolen, Paul Buckley, Steve Cardiff, Roger Clapp, William Clark, Kimball Garrett, Peter Grant, Peter Harrison, Dave Lee, Paul Lehman, Guy McCaskie, Nancy Newfield, Dennis Paulson, Allan Phillips, H. Douglas Pratt, J. V. Remsen, Robert Ridgely, Don Roberson, and Claudia Wilds. The author would also like to thank Greg Lasley for reviewing earlier drafts of this article and for making many helpful comments and suggestions.

Additional Abbreviations.—*AB* = *American Birds* magazine; BBNP = Big Bend National Park; CBC = Christmas Bird Count; GMNP = Guadalupe Mountains National Park; LRGV = Lower Rio Grande Valley; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; SP = State Park; TCWC = Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (Texas A&M University); UTC = Upper Texas Coast; WMP = Warren M. Pulich collection.

Accepted Records

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) (14). One was photographed at Calaveras Lake, *Bexar* 12–29 December 1989 (**WS**; 1990-55, TPRF #866).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (30). One was at the Texas City Dike, *Galveston* 13 January–17 February 1980 (**EF**; RB; 1989-75). One was photographed at Offat's Bayou, *Galveston* 17 & 25 February 1990 (**JiM**, **TE**; 1990-76, TPRF #874). One was at Rockport, *Aransas* 11 April 1990 (**JD**; 1990-111). As many as five were at Offat's Bayou 20 April–5 May 1990 (DM, JD, JA, GL, BHo, DW; 1990-102, TPRF #877). Up to nine were on Lake Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* 28 April–5 May 1990 (**RK**, **GH**, **MW**, RR; 1990-82, TPRF #873).

White-chinned Petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) (1). One was found exhausted as it washed ashore near Rollover Pass, *Galveston* 27 April 1986 (**LF**, AM; 1990-129, TPRF #957). Initially identified as a Sooty Shearwater and later discarded (unfortunately) by a rehabilitator when it died, this bird was only recently identified from photos. This record, the first for North America and possibly for the northern hemisphere, is currently being reviewed by the ABA and AOU.

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*). Two birds were seen on a pelagic trip off Galveston, *Galveston* 13 October 1979 (**JE**, CSu, RB; 1989-77). One was seen on a pelagic trip off Galveston 29 June 1980 (**MH**; 1989-67). This species is now regarded as a regular late summer and fall visitor to Texas waters and is no longer on the regular Review List (see end of report).

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) (9). Four birds were found 50–60 miles off Port Aransas, *Nueces* 4 November 1990 (LAl, WS, TF, PF, MA, DM, JB, PG, JMu; 1990-135). This record represents the first non-specimen report accepted by the TBRC.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) (11). One was at the Laguna Madre, *Cameron* 24 September 1988 (KEd; 1989-139). Six were seen from a fishing boat 1 mile off Freeport, *Brazoria* 31 March 1990 (**PF**, **TF**; 1990-67).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis flacinellus*) (12). An adult was at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* 18–31 March 1990 (**MA**, JB; 1990-114). One was in *Chambers* 29 April 1990 (**DP**; 1990-79).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) (9). One male was at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* 14 April 1979 (**AD**; 1990-51). One male was photographed in Clint, *El Paso* 4–8 February 1990 (**BZ**; 1990-27, TPRF #892). One male was on Lake Sam Rayburn, *Nacogdoches* 9–10 February 1990 (**DF**, MCo, DW; 1990-59).

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (1). One male was photographed along South Padre Island, *Cameron* 30 January–4 February 1990, representing the first confirmed state record (**NB**, PM, MK, MF, AMo; 1990-21, TPRF #858). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 44:291.

Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*) (11). Two of at least four were photographed at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* 1 September–19 November 1967 (DMH; 1990-52, photo published in *AFN* 22:65). One was at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* 28 December 1977–15 January 1978 (**SH**, **RCl**, MJ, DD, LB, EM; 1990-53).

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) (11). An immature was photographed at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* 26 November 1964 (**LG**; 1990-60, TPRF #894).

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) (8). One was photographed on the jetty at Freeport, *Brazoria* 17 December 1989–mid April 1990 (**DD**, PG, GL, ML, JP, MC, KB, JiM, GK, EW, BM; 1990-8, TPRF #856). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 44:292.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (11). One was in High Island, *Chambers* 7 September 1989 (**RU**; 1989-201).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercoraris pomarinus*). One was along the beach at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 22 March 1987 (**MA**; 1989-63). This species has been removed from the regular Review List, but documentation is still solicited (see end of report).

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercoraris parasiticus*). An adult was 40+ miles off Galveston, *Galveston* 10 April 1976 (**TBF**; 1989-66). Like the Pomarine Jaeger, this species has been removed from the regular Review List (see end of report).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (8). One was found dead on the south jetty at Port Aransas, *Nueces* 6 June 1987 (**WP, Jr.**, WP, Sr.; 1990-63, *WMP #3088, TPRF #869).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (15). One first-winter bird was in e. Fort Worth, *Tarrant* 16 December 1988 (**CH, MPe**; 1989-102). One first-winter bird was at Mitchell Lake in San Antonio, *Bexar* 17 December 1989 (**WS**; 1990-87). One first-winter bird was photographed in Galveston, *Galveston* 27 January–1 February 1990 (**TE**, JiM, RU, PG, LAl; 1990-38, TPRF #879).

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (13). Two first-winter birds were at the Brownsville City Dump, *Cameron* 25 February 1980 (**JD, GM, GMa, LM**; 1989-42, TPRF #881). One first-winter bird was in Freeport, *Brazoria* 22 December 1985 (**TE, VEu**; 1989-64). One first-winter bird was near Surfside, *Brazoria* 5 November & 17 December 1989 (**TE, JiM**, RCu, DC; 1990-57, TPRF #868). One first-winter bird was photographed at Live Oak Point, *Aransas* 12 February 1990 (**CB *et al.***; 1990-74, TPRF #887). One first-winter bird was photographed near High Island, *Galveston, Jefferson, Chambers* 7–14 April 1990 (**JR, WR**, JD, GL, AS, GS; 1990-73, TPRF #855).

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) (1). One first-winter bird was photographed at S. Padre Island, *Cameron* 15 January–12 February 1977 (**JA**; 1989-245, TPRF #935). Long talked about, but only recently critically reviewed, it represented a first confirmed record for Texas.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) (39). One third-winter bird was at High Island, *Galveston* 21 April 1984 (**VE**, JL, ML; 1990-138). One adult was at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* 21 October–5 November 1989 (**JB *et al.***, JiM, TE; 1990-42). One adult was photographed in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 2 January–8 March 1990 (**MC**, AC, CC, GL; 1990-40, TPRF #863). One sub-adult was at Aransas NWR, *Aransas* 4 January 1990 (**PI**; 1990-10). One adult was photographed at Galveston, *Galveston* 17 February 1990 (**TE, JiM**; 1990-78, TPRF #872).

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) (38). One first-winter bird was on the Bolivar Peninsula, *Galveston* 3–7 December 1977 (**MJ**, DD; 1990-49). One first-winter bird was photographed on Mustang Island, *Nueces* 25 December 1989 (**TA**; 1990-98, TPRF #876). One immature (probable first-winter) was photographed on N. Padre Island, *Nueces* 12 February 1990 (**RoK**; 1990-65, TPRF #893). One first-winter bird was on S. Padre Island, *Cameron* 19 February 1990 (**KE**; 1990-48). One first-winter bird was photographed at Galveston, *Galveston* on 18 March 1990 (**TE**; 1990-107, TPRF #880). One immature (first or second winter) was near High Island, *Galveston* on 20 April 1990 (**DM**; 1990-103).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) (14). One first-winter bird was at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* on 1 February 1990 (**JG**; 1990-69). One first-winter bird was on S. Padre Island, *Cameron* on 27 February 1990 (**JG**; 1990-70).

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (20). One first-winter bird was in Freeport, *Brazoria* on 23 December 1973 (**KK**; 1990-131). One winter-plumaged adult was photographed in *Jefferson* on 20 April 1985 (**CE**; 1990-137). One first-winter bird was at Rollover Pass, *Galveston* from 29 March–16 April 1988 (**BB**; 1990-125). One immature (probable first-summer) was near High Island, *Galveston* on 25 April 1990 (**BB, DaF**; 1990-116). One first-winter bird was at Lake O' The Pines, *Marion* on 1 December 1990 (**KN, DB**; 1990-152).

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (22). One juvenal plumaged bird was at Lake Waco, *McLennan* on 17 October 1990 (**JMu**; 1990-130).

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) (8). One adult male was photographed at Lajitas, *Brewster* from 22 February to 22 March 1990 (**PSM**, ML, JH; 1990-66, TPRF #870).

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) (10). One was in Flower Mound, *Denton* on 26 December 1989 (**ME**; 1990-88).

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) (9). One male was in Del Rio, *Val Verde* on 9–10 April 1990 (**BHa**, **VH**; 1990-90). One was photographed in Midland, *Midland* from 22 to 31 May 1990 (**MEr**; 1990-96, TPRF #889). A photo of the Midland bird was published in *AB* 44:462.

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) (3). One adult male was photographed and a rectrix collected in Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* 7 November 1987 to 6 March 1988 (**SC TC**, MAn, FH, AB, RB, LJa, TE; 1988-215, TPRF #865).

Elegant Trogon (*Trogon elegans*) (2). One female was at Delta Lake, *Hidalgo* from 25 to 31 January 1990 (**WCa**, JF, BR, OC, PF, TF, CH, LH, CC, MC, AC; 1990-19, TPRF #857). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 44:223.

Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) (21). One adult was at Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* on 29 April 1990 (**JD**; 1990-110). One adult was in central *Hartley* on 5 May 1990 (**KS**; 1990-80). One adult was in GMNP, *Culberson* on 9 May 1990 (**MFl**; 1990-81). Two immatures were in Midland, *Midland* on 21 October 1990 and one stayed through 24 May 1991 (**FW**; 1990-150).

Thick-billed Kingbird (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) (8). Two adults nested and fledged young at Cottonwood Campground, BBNP, *Brewster* from 7 April to 4 August 1990 (**ML**, JVR, ASe, PF, TF, JD, RW, KB, BRo, EF, BZ, JG; 1990-86, TPRF #875, TBSL #203-02). One was photographed at Rio Grande Village, BBNP, *Brewster* on 4 July 1990 (**BZ**; 1990-124, TPRF #954).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) (6). One was at Aransas NWR, *Aransas* on 4 December 1989 (**CBo**, **EB**; 1990-36).

Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) (8). One to two were at Bentsen SP, *Hidalgo* between 14 September 1989 and 3 March 1990 (CS, MA, OC, LH; 1990-62). One was photographed at Anzalduas Park, *Hidalgo* during its stay 15 January–9 February 1990 (MG, CB; 1990-75, TPRF #888). One female was at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* 18 February 1990 (**OC**, **AF**; 1990-128).

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) (1). One male, judged to be of wild origin, was well studied and photographed at Bentsen SP, *Hidalgo* 17 February to 10 March 1990, (**CBe**, **JMi**, AF, MA, CC, GL, MK, MC, AC, PG, LAl, OC, NA, CH, RW, PF, TF, FB, RHe, BO, BAr, MF, LH, JMu, CS; 1990-33, TPRF #860). A photo of this bird, a first record for the U.S., was published in *AB*. 44:223.

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*) (2). One was photographed in El Paso, *El Paso* 4–6 & 17 February 1990 (**EPAS**, BZ, DBr; 1990-28, TPRF #890).

Clay-colored Robin (Turdus grayi) (37). One was photographed at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 28 February 1974 (**AW**; 1990-68, TPRF #871). One was photographed in Laguna Vista, *Cameron* in February 1988 (**MK**; 1990-56, TPRF #867). Up to 5 were in Laguna Vista from 15 January to 21 April 1990 (**MK**, GL; 1990-35, TPRF #862). A photo of one of these birds was published in *AB* 44:294. Two were at Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* from 27 January to 19 March 1990 (**MF**, **RF**, PF, TF; 1990-43). One was at Santa Ana NWR on 28

January 1990 (**CH, LH**; 1990-37). One was at Santa Ana NWR on 28 January 1990 (**CH, LH**; 1990-37). One to two birds were at Santa Ana NWR 15 March & 22 April 1990 (TE, JP, JD; 1990-105, TBSL #203-03). One was at Anzalduas Park, *Hidalgo* on 22 June 1990 (JR, WR; 1990-120).

White-throated Robin (*Turdus assimilis*) (1). One was in the company of several Clay-colored Robins in Laguna Vista, *Cameron* from 18–25 February 1990, furnishing a first documented record for the U.S. (**MK**, OC, GL, TP; 1990-34, TPRF #861). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 44:221. See also Lasley and Krzywonski (1991).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (10). One was in El Paso, *El Paso* on 10 May 1990 (**LJ**; 1990-89). One was photographed at Bentsen SP, *Hidalgo* 5–8 December 1990 (RG, LoG, TP, JK; 1990-151, TPRF #958).

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) (5). One was at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* from 6 May to 24 August 1990 (LAl, PG, EBr; 1990-121, TBSL #203-04).

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) (there are many accepted records of this species in Texas, but only 4 in the 20th century). One was at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 8 March 1989 (**DP**; 1989-87).

Red-faced Warbler (*Cardellina rubrifrons*) (7). One was at Boot Springs, BBNP, *Brewster* on 1–2 May 1990 (JD, WD, SKe, JHa, TB, MBi, TJ, CJ; 1990-109).

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) (8). One was at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* from 1 January to 15 February 1990 (BP, MG, CH, LH, LoG, RG; 1990-31, TPRF #891).

Blue Bunting (*Cyanocompsa parellina*) (14). One to two were at Bentsen SP, *Hidalgo* from 5 January to 15 March 1990 (PF, TF, MK, MC, AC, JP, MF, MG, RM; 1990-46, TPRF #864).

Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) (1). One adult male was photographed at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 22–24 January 1990, representing the first documented record for the United States (**DDe, TBe**, JK, TK, CGP, MaP, HP, BD; 1990-23, TPRF #859). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 44:222.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) (6). One was at Brazoria NWR, *Brazoria* on 31 December 1983 (**LB**; 1990-133).

Yellow-eyed Junco (*Junco phaeonotus*) (3). One was at BBNP, *Brewster* on 25 April and 5 May 1990 (**JSe**, VE; 1990-122).

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) (1). One male of this infamous species was caught in a cowbird trap amidst a Black-capped Vireo colony at Fort Hood, *Bell* on 23 May 1990, when it was photographed and collected for a first state record (**KM, CZ**, GL; 1990-95, *TCWC #12720, TPRF #878). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 44:387.

Accepted Presumptive Species

White-crowned Pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*) (1). One was seen on Green Island, *Cameron* on 24 June & 2 July 1989, representing the first report of this species in Texas (**MF**; 1989-186).

Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) (1). One was observed at Boot Springs, BBNP, *Brewster* between 30 April and 15 May 1990, representing the first accepted sight-only record in Texas (**GW**, PF, TF, RF, ML, CCo; 1990-85).

Unaccepted Records

A number of factors may contribute to a record being denied acceptance. It is quite uncommon for a record to not be accepted because the bird was obviously misidentified. More commonly, a record is denied acceptance because the material submitted to the TBRC was incomplete, insufficient, superficial, or just too vague to properly document the reported occurrence while eliminating *all* other similar species. Also, written documentation or descriptions prepared *entirely from memory* weeks, months, or years after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably. It is important that we stress here that the simple act of not accepting a particular record should by no means indicate that the TBRC or any of its members necessarily feels the record did not occur as reported. The non-acceptance of any record simply reflects the opinion of the TBRC that the documentation, as submitted, did not meet the rigorous standards appropriate for adding data to the formal historical record. The TBRC makes every effort to be as fair and objective as possible regarding each record. If the committee is unsure about any particular record, it prefers to err on the conservative side and not accept a good record rather than validate a bad one. All records, whether accepted or not, remain on file and can be re-submitted to the committee if additional substantive material is presented.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). One (1989-222) at Freeport, *Brazoria* on 23 December 1962. One (1990-77) at Buchanan Lake, *Llano* on 18 January 1990. One (1990-72) at Freeport on 17 March 1990.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). One (1990-54) at Freeport, *Brazoria* on 2 February 1978.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*). One (1989-128) off S. Padre Island, *Cameron* on 27 March 1989. Four (1989-171) off Gilchrist, *Galveston* on 1 April 1989.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). One (1989-247) in Waco, *McLennan* from 9–15 August 1989. Non-adult birds continue to present difficulties.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*). One (1990-64) was shot and photographed by a hunter near Hereford, *Deaf Smith* on 12 January 1986. Questions of origin plague this record.

Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*). One (1989-212) near Brownsville, *Cameron* on 22 October 1977. One (1989-211) in San Antonio, *Bexar* on 22 May 1978.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). One (1990-71) at GMNP, *Culberson* on 16 April 1990.

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*). One (1990-7) at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr* on 30 December 1989.

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*). One (1990-142) at Bentsen SP, *Hidalgo* on 2 May 1985. One (1988-2) in Brownsville, *Cameron* from 3–7 February 1987. Many observers contributed to the latter record, but it seemed to be hopelessly plagued by contradictory information (possibly due to there being a Broad-winged Hawk present at the same locale?!). It is unfortunate that a good photo was never obtained verifying its existence.

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*). One (1990-47) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 10 September 1957.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). One (1990-92) at the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, *Hidalgo* on 16 December 1989. One (1990-93) at Santa Ana NWR,

Hidalgo on 16 December 1989. One (1990-94) in *Tyler* on 30 December 1989. Winter records of this species will continue to be reviewed due to the species rarity anywhere in the U.S. during December and January.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*). One (1990-141) at Port Bolivar, *Galveston* on 19 April 1984.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). One (1989-45) in *Chambers* on 31 March 1973. Three to five (1990-99) in Rockport, *Aransas* on 26 March 1981.

Parasitic Jaeger (*stercorarius parasiticus*). One (1989-46) at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* on 23 June 1974. One (1990-13) at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 29 December 1989.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*). One (1990-112) at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 22 February 1990.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). One (1990-145) in Brownsville, *Cameron* on 27 March 1978. One (1990-58) near San Luis Pass, *Galveston* on 19 November 1989. One (1990-91) at Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 18 December 1989. One (1990-132) at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 3–4 May 1990.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). One (1989-262) on S. Padre Island, *Cameron* on 9 October 1989. One (1990-117) at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* on 14–15 March 1990.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). One (1989-110) at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* on 21 September 1974. One (1990-106) at Bolivar Flats on 12 May 1990.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*). One (1990-139) at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* on 20 April 1984.

Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*). One (1990-136) off Galveston, *Galveston* on 17 August 1990.

Blue-gray Noddy (*Sterna cerulea*). One (1990-156) at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* on 24 August 1990.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*). One (1988-216) at Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* on 7 February 1988.

Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*). One (1990-144) on W. Galveston Island, *Galveston* on 13 May 1979.

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*). One (1990-118) at Bentsen SP, *Hidalgo* on 23 July 1985.

San Blas Jay (*Cyanocorax sanblasianus*). One (1990-101) at Anzalduas Park, *Hidalgo* from 3 March to 5 April 1990. Since this jay is a sedentary species of western Mexico that is sometimes sold as a cage bird, it is doubtful a case can ever be made for natural vagrancy in the U.S.

Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*). One (1990-108) at Morgan's Point, *Harris* from 21 December 1980–10 January 1981.

Aztec Thrush (*Ridgwayia pinicola*). One (1989-256) in Del Rio, *Val Verde* on 11 October 1989.

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*). Two (1989-40) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 20 June 1960. One (1990-148) at Santa Ana NWR on 27 April 1979.

Crescent-chested Warbler (*Parula superciliosa*). One (1990-126) at Falcon Dam, *Starr* on 10 May 1970 (*Birding,* Vol. 3, p. 27, Jan.–Feb. 1971). This sight record is the same one as mentioned by Heathcote and Kaufman (*American Birds* 39: 9–11) concerning their Arizona record. The original observers could not be tracked down and available information in the note to *Birding* was considered too brief.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). One (1988-295) in Falfurrias, *Brooks* on 12 September 1988.

Blue Bunting (*Cyanocompsa parellina*). One (1990-45) at Aransas NWR, *Aransas* on 21 December 1989.

Worthen's Sparrow (*Spizella wortheni*). One (1990-44) in Falcon Heights, *Starr* on 10 February 1990. There is some debate on whether this is a distinct species. Its similarity to "western" Field Sparrow makes sight records extremely difficult to judge. Very good photos or collection may be necessary before this species can be added to the state list, not to mention the ABA list.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). One (1990-84) at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* on 21 December 1989.

Black-vented Oriole (*Icterus wagleri*). One (1990-143) at San Ygnacio, *Zapata* on 14 August 1980.

Literature Cited

American Ornithologists Union. 1983. Checklist of North American birds, 6th ed. American Ornith. Union, Baltimore, MD.

Arnold, K. A. 1984. Decisions of the T.O.S. Bird Records Committee for 1984. Bull. Texas Ornith. Soc. 17(1&2):18–19.

———. 1985. Decisions of the T.O.S. Bird Records Committee for 1985. Bull. Texas Ornith. Soc. 18(1&2):31–32.

Dittmann, D. L., and G. W. Lasley. 1992. How to document rare birds. Birding 24:145–159.

Lasley, G. W. 1988. Texas Bird Records Committee Report for 1987. Bull. Texas Ornith. Soc. 21(1&2):25–32.

———. 1989. Texas Bird Records Committee Report for 1988. Bull. Texas Ornith. Soc. 22(1&2): 2–14.

———. 1990. Texas Bird Records Committee Report for 1989. Bull. Texas Ornith. Soc. 23(1&2): 6–19.

———. 1991. Texas Bird Records Committee Report for 1990. Bull. Texas Ornith. Soc. 24(1):2–15.

Lasley, G. W., and M. Krzywonski. 1991. First United States record of the White-throated Robin. American Birds 45:230–231.

Oberholser, H. C. 1974. The bird life of Texas. The University of Texas Press, Austin.

TBRC Review List

The TBRC requests details, including descriptions and photos if possible, of all records of the following species.

Review List A.—Rarities: These species, in general, include birds that have occurred four or fewer times per year anywhere in Texas over a ten-year average. The TBRC requests documentation for review for any new or any previously unsubmitted record of the below species no matter how long ago the record occurred. The TBRC also requests details on any record of a species not yet accepted on the Texas State List.

Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Yellow-billed Loon, Yellow-nosed Albatross, White-chinned Petrel, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Red-billed Tropicbird, Blue-footed Booby, Brown Booby, Red-footed Booby, Glossy Ibis, Jabiru, Greater Flamingo, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, American Black Duck, White-cheeked Pintail, Garganey, Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Masked Duck, Snail Kite, Northern Goshawk, Crane Hawk, Roadside Hawk, Short-tailed Hawk, Paint-billed Crake, Spotted Rail, Double-striped Thick-Knee, Northern Jacana, Eskimo Curlew, Surfbird, Purple Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Red Phalarope, Long-tailed Jaeger, Little Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed

Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Elegant Tern, Bridled Tern, Brown Noddy, Black Noddy, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Mangrove Cuckoo, Snowy Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Mottled Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, White-collared Swift, Green Violet-ear, Broad-billed Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Elegant Trogon, Lewis' Woodpecker, Ivory-billed Woodpecker (presumed extirpated in Texas), Greenish Elaenia, Greater Pewee, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Thick-billed Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Rose-throated Becard, Masked Tityra, Gray-breasted Martin, Clark's Nutcracker, Black-billed Magpie, American Dipper, Clay-colored Robin, White-throated Robin, Rufous-backed Robin, Varied Thrush, Aztec Thrush, Black Catbird, Gray Silky-flycatcher, Yellow-green Vireo, Black-whiskered Vireo, Yucatan Vireo, Connecticut Warbler, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Red-faced Warbler, Golden-crowned Warbler, Rufous-capped Warbler, Crimson-collared Grosbeak, Blue Bunting, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Henslow's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Yellow-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Shiny Cowbird, Black-vented Oriole, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Review List B.—Species under special study by sub-committee of TBRC concerning their distribution and status in Texas: Records of these species will generally not be formally reviewed by the TBRC (except for winter Swainson's Hawk and Semipalmated Sandpiper records which will be reviewed), but documentation is requested to assist in these studies.

Clark's Grebe, Cory's Shearwater, Muscovy Duck, Common Black-Hawk, Swainson's Hawk (December–January), Aplomado Falcon (reintroduction program in progress), Semipalmated Sandpiper (December–January), Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Spotted Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, Northern Shrike, Baird's Sparrow.

Presumptive Species List.—The following is the official TBRC list of species for which written descriptions of sight records have been accepted by the TBRC but the species has not yet met the requirements for full acceptance on the Texas List (specimen, photo, or tape recording for at least one record).

Red-necked Grebe, White-crowned Pigeon, Bohemian Waxwing, Slate-throated Redstart.

Addendum to the 1991 Report

The TBRC held its 1992 annual meeting at Austin on 14 March 1992. A considerable amount of time was spent discussing the treatment in Texas of Ringed Turtle-Dove and several parrot species (specifically Red-crowned Parrot and Green Parakeet). Despite popular opinion that the parrots should be on the official Texas list, there is little evidence of a sustainable nesting population of either species, at least none that has been submitted to the *American Birds* editors or to the TBRC. In addition, it was questioned whether or not existing Ringed Turtle-Dove populations are too dependent on man to survive on their own. The annual status and distribution of each of these species warrants more study, and it was mutually agreed we need to continue to solicit information on their nesting populations before deciding whether such species deserve inclusion on the state list. A sub-committee was formed to investgate the Mexican bird market and to define criteria that may be used when voting on records of Mexican vagrants. Finally, after lengthy discussion, it was decided to return Baird's Sparrow to Review List A.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) Utilization of Electric Power Substations in Houston (Harris County), Texas, and Vicinity

Robert A. Honig

3803 Purdue, Houston, Texas 77005

ABSTRACT.—Western Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) were observed at 28 of 56 electric power substations that were monitored in Houston (Harris County), Texas, and vicinity, from 1984 through 1986. Nesting was confirmed at 21 of these sites, concentrated in the west and southwest portions of the study area. Casual observation has documented that the kingbirds continue to use the substations to the present (1992), and that their range may still be expanding eastward. The grassy areas at many of these substations provide islands of suitable habitat within urbanized Houston. However, Western Kingbirds were seen only very rarely in apparently suitable habitat other than at substations, indicating a strong attraction to these facilities in the Houston area. Further study is needed to determine the factors influencing this apparent nest site preference, as well as to better define the distribution of Western Kingbirds in Houston and vicinity.

In spring 1984, Steve Williams reported Western Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) at the Hillcroft electric power substation, owned by Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P), in southwest Houston (Harris County), Texas. Subsequently, I visited this site five times between 24 June and 29 July 1984, observing two pairs of Western Kingbirds fledging young. Because a highly urbanized environment such as Houston is not particularly suitable for this species, these observations suggested that Western Kingbirds in Houston may be preferentially utilizing the open, grassy areas of electric power substations and rights-of-way. Here I report on field studies conducted to better define the extent of Western Kingbird distribution along the HL&P system throughout the Houston area.

In Texas, Western Kingbirds historically have occurred most commonly in the western two-thirds of the state (Oberholser 1974). Early works (Nehrling 1882; Singley 1893; Strecker 1912) make no mention of Western Kingbirds on the upper Texas coast. Williams (1962) did not list the Western Kingbird as a breeder in the Houston vicinity, although a single nesting record in 1959 was noted. Oberholser (1974) noted at least one sight record of breeding Western Kingbirds in Harris County (possibly the 1959 nesting) but no records in adjacent Fort Bend County. The late 1970s produced three nesting reports near the western edge of Houston (Webster 1976; Ornithology Group 1977, 1979). Undoubtedly as a result of these observations, Feltner and Pettingell (1980) listed the Western Kingbird as an "occasional nester since 1960" on the upper Texas coast.

Substations and Transmission Line Rights-of-Way as Western Kingbird Habitat

Western Kingbirds typically inhabit open country, but require perches such as trees, shrubs, or other tall vantage points from which they fly out to capture insects

on the wing or drop to the ground to catch a variety of prey (Oberholser 1974; Blancher and Robertson 1984). Trees and shrubs are also the natural nesting sites for this species (Oberholser 1974), and before the advent of European man their range was undoubtedly restricted by the lack of these perches in otherwise suitable open country habitat. The expansion of Western Kingbird breeding range since 1900 has been facilitated by the opening of woodlands, the planting of trees on the plains, and the erection of man-made structures which accompanied settlement (Oberholser 1974; MacKenzie and Sealy 1981). In fact, use of man-made structures such as telephone and power lines by Western Kingbirds for foraging and nesting is well documented (e.g., Bent 1942; Oberholser 1974; Ohlendorf 1974). As early as 1923, Nice (1924) observed Western Kingbird nest-building on a telephone pole in Grady County, Oklahoma. Bent (1942) provides an overview of the eastward expansion of the Western Kingbird's range in the early 1900s, and Oberholser (1974) notes its arrival in the Austin (Travis County), Texas, area in the 1950s.

Within a substation (Figure 1), the electrical equipment is surrounded by many horizontal and vertical supports. In addition, transmission line towers are located within and/or immediately adjacent to the substation. These facilities provide numerous sites functionally equivalent to the horizontal tree branches on which Western Kingbirds frequently nest and, along with the power lines, an abundance of perches from which to hunt for their prey.

The HL&P substations range from less than an acre to hundreds of acres. ("Substation" as used in this work includes several large power plants which, in terms of Western Kingbird habitat, function as extremely large substations.) Most contain grassy expanses that comprise a significant proportion of their area. These "grasslands" provide the open habitat preferred by Western Kingbirds. Furthermore, most substations are fenced and are thus relatively undisturbed by human activity. Electric power transmission line rights-of-way, with their towers and typically grassy corridors, appear similarly suitable for Western Kingbirds.

Results

From 1984 through 1986, I (along with 28 volunteers in 1986) monitored 56 substations in Houston and vicinity for the presence of Western Kingbirds.

1984

From 29 July to 12 August, I visited three other substations, located on the same east-west right-of-way as the Hillcroft Substation. I observed several Western Kingbirds, including at least one nesting pair, at each of two of these substations, and a pair, but no nest, at the third site. Kingbirds were still present at one of these sites, as well as the Hillcroft Substation, on 12 August. Throughout this period, I observed no Western Kingbirds along the grassy right-of-way between these substations.

1985

Observations between 5 June and 28 July confirmed Western Kingbird nesting at 12 substations in the Houston area, with a pair present at an additional substation. Throughout this period, Western Kingbirds were present at one or more

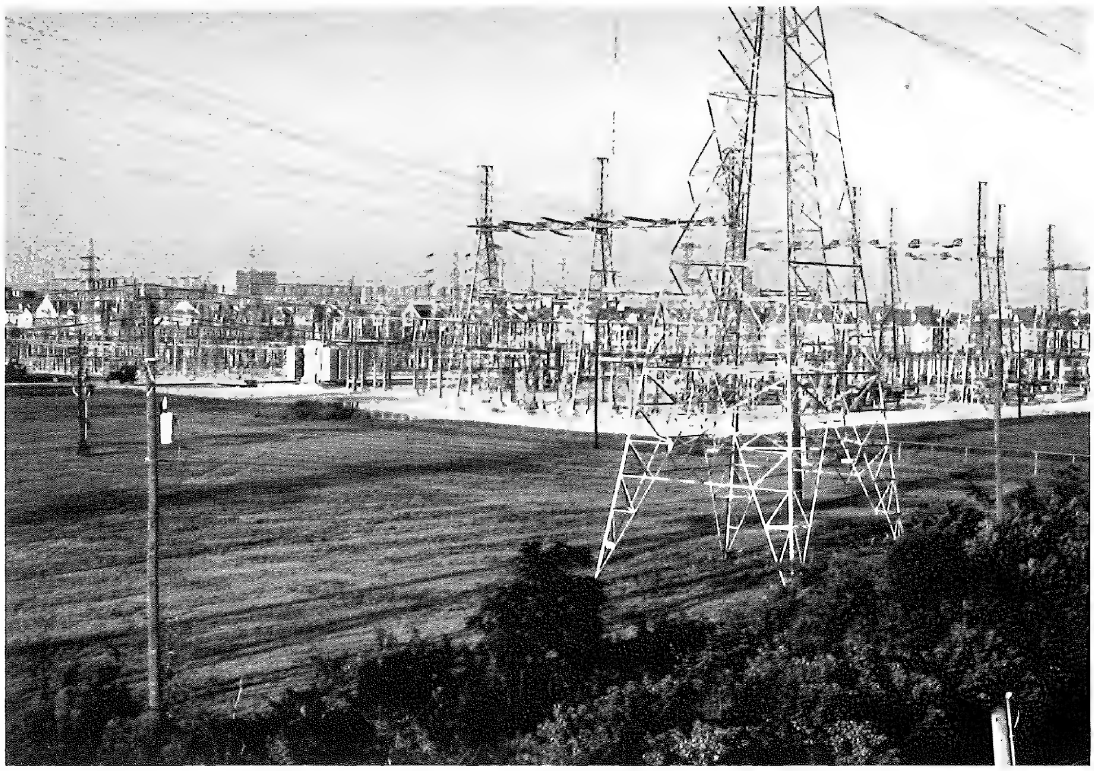

Fig. 1. A typical large Houston Lighting & Power substation in Harris County, Texas. Photo by Bob Honig.

of these locations, including three sites with multiple pairs. I observed no Western Kingbirds at 20 substations. However, I visited 16 of these 20 sites only once and four only twice, thus possibly missing nesting activity. Also during 1985, Mark Kulstad (pers. comm.) reported Western Kingbirds nesting in southwest Houston on a transmission line tower along a wide, grassy right-of-way, but not immediately adjacent to a substation.

1986

To assess more completely the status of Western Kingbirds in the Houston area, I and 28 volunteers, most recruited from the Ornithology Group of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club, monitored 46 substations during 1986. Observers used the following codes: 0 = no Western Kingbirds; A = Western Kingbird(s) observed but no pair formation evident; B = pair; C = nest-building; D = completed nest, including incubating eggs; E = nestling(s); F = fledgling(s). They recorded a very general habitat description (e.g., grassy, brushy, wooded, urbanized, etc.) and the number of Western Kingbird adults, nestlings, and fledglings observed during each site visit. Volunteers were encouraged to visit their site(s) as often as possible, preferably at least once per week, and to start their visits in April, before the expected arrival of Western Kingbirds, and continue until after the kingbirds departed; however, it was not possible to maintain this schedule at all locations. They were also encouraged to visit other seemingly appropriate Western Kingbird habitats, particularly along transmission line rights-of-way.

Observers found Western Kingbirds at 24 of the 46 substations, with nesting

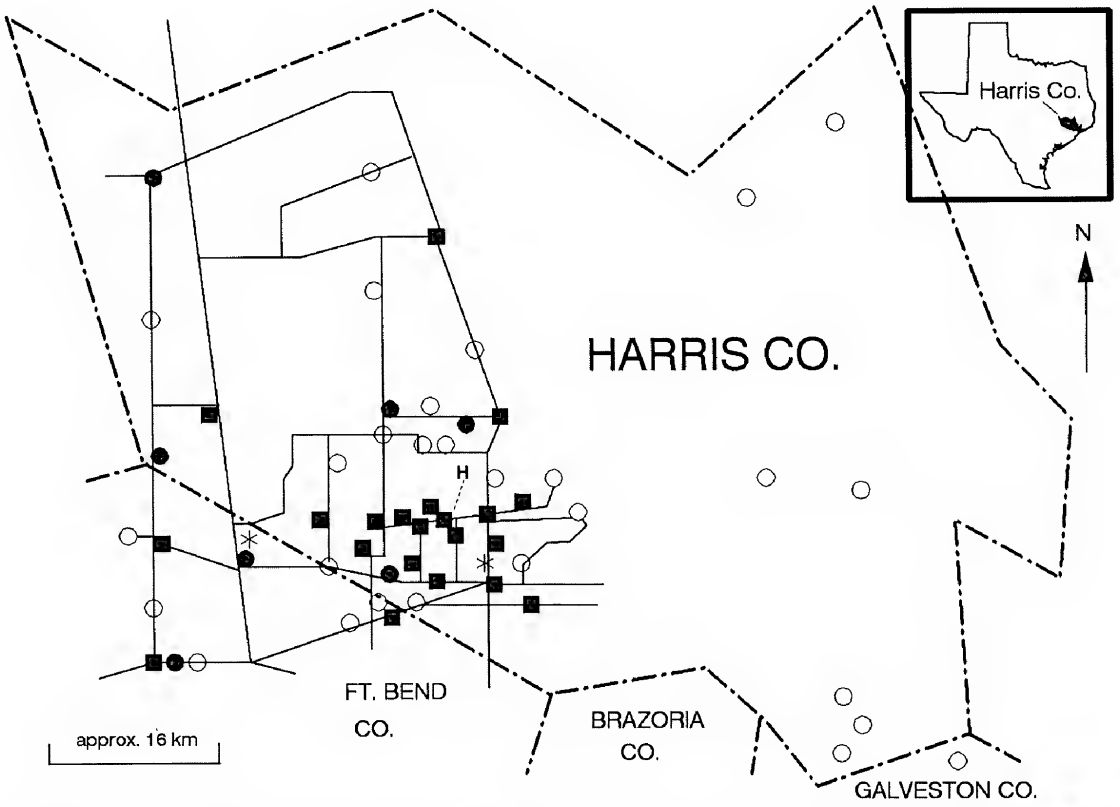

Fig. 2. Observations at electric power substations, 1984–1986: ○ = no Western Kingbirds; ● = Western Kingbirds present, but no nesting; ■ = Western Kingbirds nesting (H = Hillcroft Substation). * = non-substation nesting sites. Interconnecting HL&P rights-of-way are shown in the western portion of the study area.

confirmed (observation codes C–F) at 17 of these sites and pairs at three others. The kingbirds most frequently nested on the transformers or related equipment; however, some pairs situated their nests on electric transmission line towers within or immediately adjacent to substations. Observers noted fledged young at 12 of the 17 nesting locations. Five substations had multiple pairs, including over ten pairs at one power plant. A nest also was found at one non-substation site, atop a transformer on a utility pole. Observers visited several of the sites only once or twice, again raising the possibility that some nesting activity may have been missed.

Western Kingbirds arrived at the 1986 nesting sites from mid-April (earliest observation: 19 April) through mid-May. By mid-August they had all departed; in fact, some families with fledged young had left substations by early July. Precise determination of some arrival and departure dates was difficult due to relatively long periods between site visits at several locations.

Discussion

Figure 2 summarizes the observations from this study. Observers visited each of the 56 substations during at least one year of the 1984–1986 study period, noting Western Kingbirds at 28 substations and confirming nesting at 21 of these sites. Although no formal studies have been conducted since 1986, casual obser-

vations have documented that Western Kingbirds continue to nest each year at substations in the study area. The 7th edition of the upper Texas coast bird checklist (Dauphin et al. 1989) reflects the results of this study and subsequent records, listing the Western Kingbird as a regular breeder.

The number of substations used by Western Kingbirds, as indicated by these data, may be conservative because observers visited some sites only once or twice. Furthermore, suboptimal vantage points may have compromised observations at some locations, especially at large facilities where observers did not have access to the interior.

No Western Kingbirds were observed in the eastern portion of the study area, but the majority of the study sites was concentrated to the west. Observations at several substations indicate that Western Kingbirds were not nesting in southeastern Harris County as of 1991. However, in 1992 a pair nested and fledged young on a transmission line tower near a cogeneration unit at La Porte in far east Harris County (G. D. Luckner, pers. comm.), suggesting that the species still may be expanding eastward. Because numerous substations were not surveyed (there are more than 225 substations in the study area), particularly in the north and east Harris County, further study is warranted to better define the limits of Western Kingbird distribution in the county.

Although Western Kingbirds were found nesting at four locations other than at electric power substations, the results of this study indicate that Western Kingbirds in the Houston area prefer electric power substations as nesting sites. In fact, two or more pairs nested at some substations, while none were found in apparently suitable habitat along nearby rights-of-way. In contrast, the two common kingbirds in the Houston vicinity, the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) and the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*T. forficatus*), are widespread nesters in open-country habitats throughout the upper Texas coast, including at some of the substation study sites.

Why do Western Kingbirds exhibit this preference? One might suspect that the large, grassy expanse found at such sites lures Western Kingbirds to substations in Houston. However, in west Harris County some of the substations where Western Kingbirds nest are surrounded by additional open habitat in which they apparently do not nest (as observed in this study). This, plus Western Kingbird presence at several smaller substations with little or no grassy area, indicates that the presence of grassy areas *immediately at* the nest site is not the only significant factor. In a somewhat analogous situation, Western Kingbirds in the College Station (Brazos County), Texas, vicinity often nest at sites with gravel or concrete substrate (K. Benson, pers. comm.).

Another hypothesis suggests that insects attracted to illumination at many of the substations might allow kingbirds to extend foraging through the night. In 1986, observers visited four illuminated substations at night while Western Kingbirds were nesting at those locations (several pairs were at one of these sites), but found no evidence that the kingbirds were active after dark. However, there is documentation that Western Kingbirds forage under nighttime illumination (Houston Audubon Society 1990), thus one cannot rule out the occurrence of this behavior at Houston area substations. Its significance, and that of other factors influencing Western Kingbird distribution in Houston, will require further study.

Western Kingbirds have nested at an electric power substation in southwest

Houston since at least the early 1980s (M. Anderson, pers. comm.). Yet, despite the paucity of prior reports, Western Kingbirds may have been regular summer residents in the Houston vicinity long before that date, perhaps having moved east in response to environmental pressures—for example, Western Kingbirds expanded into Brazos County, approximately 130 km NW of Houston, in the early 1970s (Williams 1970, 1971, 1972), possibly as a result of a trend toward drier conditions (Arnold 1973). Alternatively, they simply may have taken advantage of corridors of suitable habitat (i.e., the HL&P right-of-way system which was well established by the middle of the twentieth century). Birdwatchers—the source of most recent observations—likely would not have frequented substations, where the kingbirds may have been nesting, when so many other more diverse and aesthetically pleasing habitats are available. Thus, Western Kingbirds simply may have been overlooked for years.

The HL&P rights-of-way in the western portion of the study area, where nesting Western Kingbirds were observed, are diagrammed in Figure 2. Western Kingbirds may have used these grassy corridors as avenues for their initial spread into Houston and may continue to use them yearly on their return to substation nesting sites. However, evaluation of Western Kingbird utilization of the rights-of-way in range expansion and migration was beyond the scope of this study.

Acknowledgments

Margaret Anderson, Ron Braun, Caroline Callery, Jerry Caraviotis, Frank Cleland, Maureen Crowell, Larry Gamble, Steve Gast, Bill Goloby, Martha Henschen, Barbara Hortvet, Doug Hortvet, Margaret Jones, Paul Jones, Marion Krug, Sue Krug, Mark Kulstad, Bob McFarlane, Peggy Milstead, Richard Orr, Frank Peace, Noel Pettingell, Don Richardson, Lee Richardson, Laura Singleton, Wanda Smith, Rob Thacker, and Doug Williams submitted data in 1986, turning this study from a collection of scattered observations into a more organized and meaningful body of information. Ron Braun, Larry Gamble, and Doug Williams additionally reviewed and offered critical input to the initial draft, as did Frank Schlicht of HL&P who also provided invaluable background material on the HL&P system. HL&P also granted access to the T.H. Wharton Power Plant, in northwest Harris County, where 26 Western Kingbirds were observed on both 6 and 28 June 1986. Ron Braun and Ted Eubanks, Jr., provided reviews of literature relating to the historical record of Western Kingbirds on the upper Texas coast. Lynne Aldrich and Peter Gottschling monitored several substations in southeast Harris County in June and July 1991. Julia M. Starr provided editorial comments on the final draft.

Literature Cited

Arnold, K. A. 1973. The birds of Brazos County: Thirty years in retrospect. Bull. Texas Ornith. Soc. 6(1):4–6.

Bent, A. C. 1942. Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows, and their allies. U.S. National Museum Bulletin No. 179, Washington, D.C. pp. 57–70.

Blancher, P. J., and R. J. Robinson. 1984. Resource use by sympatric kingbirds. Condor 86(3):305–313.

Dauphin, D. T., A. N. Pettingell, and E. R. Rozenburg (compilers). 1989. A birder's checklist of the upper Texas coast, 7th ed. Ornithology Group, Houston Outdoor Nature Club.

Feltner, T. B., and A. N. Pettingell (compilers). 1980. A birders's checklist of the upper Texas coast, 6th ed. Ornithology Group, Houston Outdoor Nature Club.

Houston Audubon society. 1990. Big day 1990. The Naturalist 9(2):7.

MacKenzie, D. I., and S. G. Sealy. 1981. Nest site selection in Eastern and Western kingbirds: A multivariate approach. Condor 83(4):310–321.

Nehrling, H. 1882. List of birds observed at Houston, Harris Co., Texas and vicinity and the counties Montgomery, Galveston and Fort Bend. Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club 7:6–13, 166–175, 222–225.

Nice, M. M. 1924. Extension of range of the Robin and Arkansas Kingbird in Oklahoma. Auk 41(4): 565–568.

Oberholser, H. C. 1974. The bird life of Texas. University of Texas Press, Austin. pp. 536–538.

Ohlendorf, H. M. 1974. Competitive relationships among kingbirds (*Tyrannus*) in Trans-Pecos Texas. Wilson Bull. 86(4):357–373.

Ornithology Group of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club. 1977. Clearing house, June 1977. The Spoonbill 26(3):6–8.

———. 1979. Clearing house, June 1979. The Spoonbill 28(3):9–11.

Singley, J. A 1893. Texas birds. Fourth Annual Report, Geological Survey of Texas for 1892. pp. 345–375.

Strecker, J. K., Jr. 1912. The birds of Texas, an annotated check-list. Baylor University Bulletin 25(1):1–69.

Webster, F. S., Jr. 1976. The changing seasons. South Texas region. Am. Birds 30(5):977.

Williams, F. 1970. Regional reports. Southern Great Plains region. Audubon Field Notes 24(5):695.

———. 1971. Regional reports. Southern Great Plains region. Am. Birds 25(5):873–874.

———. 1972. Regional reports. Southern Great Plains region. Am. Birds 26(5):874.

Williams, S. G. 1962. Checklist of the birds of the upper Texas coast. Ornithology Group, Houston Outdoor Nature Club.

Waterbird and Raptor Utilization of Sedimentation Ponds at Gibbons Creek Lignite Mine

Bolton Williams, Donald Plitt and Paul Harris

Texas Municipal Power Agency, P.O. Box 7000, Bryan, Texas 77805

ABSTRACT.—Selected sedimentation ponds in the Texas Municipal Power Agency Gibbons Creek Lignite Mine at Carlos, Grimes County, Texas were censused at least once weekly for two years to assess waterbird and raptor utilization of the ponds. The 48,541 individuals counted were strongly dominated by the ducks and geese with secondary dominance by herons and bitterns and cormorants. One endangered, two threatened and two peripheral or rare species were observed in some numbers.

Introduction

Bottomlands in the area surrounding the confluence of Gibbons Creek and the Navasota River in Grimes County, Texas are characterized by ephemeral oxbow lakes and marshy wetland catchments in the topographic lows between the first and second natural levees. The extent of wetland habitat available in the bottoms varies from year to year with area rainfall and especially with rainfall events which produce flooding of the bottoms. Many of the wetland catchments disappear during the summer if no spring flooding occurs and even the oxbow lakes may be completely dry following two successive years with no flooding (personal observation). When the ponds and catchments are full or nearly full and when the bottomlands are flooded during the fall/winter migratory period, the area supports high numbers of waterfowl and is highly prized by local sportsmen.

Storm water runoff from Texas Municipal Power Agency's (TMPA) Gibbons Creek Lignite Mine (GCLM) at Carlos, Grimes County, Texas must be controlled, analyzed and, if necessary to comply with water quality standards, treated prior to release from the mine permit area (Railroad Commission of Texas 1981; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1982) into the Gibbons Creek and Navasota River Bottoms. Sedimentation ponds at the perimeter of the mine fulfill these requirements.

Sedimentation ponds are designed on the basis of major drainage divides and watershed areas to provide adequate storage capacity to retain a volume equal to the 10-year 24-hour rainfall event (30 Code of Federal Regulations 715.17). Clay core earthen dams are constructed on existing drainages near the mine perimeter (usually just above the flood plain) and runoff water is contained behind the dams. Existing vegetation has been left intact to provide structure for fish as well as cover and roosting/nesting sites for waterbirds, raptors and other wildlife.

Methods

Eight sedimentation ponds in GCLM were visually surveyed at least once weekly from 6 September 1989 through 6 September 1991 to assess waterbird and raptor utilization. Survey teams were equipped with 7 × 35 and 10 × 50 binoculars. Viewing distances were 300 meters or less for all ponds except Pond 14, which

at its farthest extremes was approximately 1,200 meters. Total numbers of birds observed were recorded to the lowest possible taxon for each pond.

Results and Discussion

Species, Total Numbers and Percentage Contribution

Fifty-eight species representing sixteen families of waterbirds and raptors were observed during the GCLM survey (Table 1). In total, 48,541 individuals were counted in the course of 157 surveys. Ducks and geese (Anatidae) strongly dominated the assemblage, comprising 71.19% of total numbers observed. The herons and bitterns (Ardeidae) and the cormorants (Phalacocoracidae) contributed 14.02% and 10.24%, respectively, to total numbers. The remaining taxa represented less than 5% of total numbers.

Seasonal Use of Ponds

Mean numbers of individuals observed per survey were highest during the late fall to early spring period due primarily to the presence of migrant Anatids (Fig. 1). While other taxa also tended to be higher during this period, the overall distribution of "others" was more uniform across time, indicating a resident community supplemented by mid to late summer and winter migrants.

Pond Utilization

The survey ponds at GCLM were chosen to provide a full spectrum of sizes and conditions (i.e., age, depth, proximity to mining activities, etc.) as an overview of pond utilization. Ponds 12 and 13 are quite small (approximately 0.34 and 0.2 hectares, respectively) and frequently almost dry during the summer months. The remainder of the ponds hold water throughout the year, normally providing from 6.07 to 18.62 surface hectares although actual surface area at any given time varies with rainfall, evaporation and discharges. Both numbers of species and numbers of individuals observed appear to be related to surface area of the ponds (Fig. 2). With the exception of Pond 10, mean number of individuals observed increased with pond size through the intermediate sized ponds and was reduced for the two largest ponds (Pond 14 and SP-1). Pond 10, although 7.28 hectares in area, has extensive shallow shoreline with well established emergent vegetation. Since all other habitat factors appear to be equivalent, it is assumed that reduced numbers of both species and individuals observed for Pond 10 were a result of either the reduction of effective habitat space by the heavy shoreline/shallow water vegetation or our inability to see birds in the vegetated areas. Similarly, it is assumed that lower numbers of individuals observed at Pond 14 were due to the greater viewing distances on this large pond.

Proximity to mining and reclamation activities affected numbers of birds observed on a pond at any particular time. Ponds 7, 6 and SP-1 extend in sequence from west to east along the southern boundary of an active mining area. As mining activity progressed from west to east, total monthly counts for the ponds could be seen to decrease as mining moved closer to and even with the pond and then increase as it passed and moved away. Numbers for SP-1 were affected by proximity of mining activity throughout the survey period and, thus, were lower than might otherwise be expected for a pond of its size.

Table 1. Waterbirds and raptors utilizing sedimentation ponds at Gibbons Creek Lignite Mine from 6 September 1989 through 6 September 1991.

Common name	Species	Total number	% relative abundance
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	7,962	16.40
Ring-necked Duck	*Aytha collaris*	7,876	16.23
Green-winged Teal	*Anas creca*	6,480	13.35
Cormorants (Olivaceous and Double-crested)	*Phalacrocorax* spp.	4,968	10.24
Gadwall	*Anas strepera*	3,705	7.63
Canvasback	*Aythya valisneria*	2,540	5.23
Great Egret	*Casmerodius albus*	2,288	4.71
Wood Duck	*Aix sponsa*	2,283	4.70
Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	1,854	3.82
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea herodias*	1,475	3.04
Blue-winged Teal	*Anas discors*	905	1.86
American Wigeon	*Anas americana*	726	1.50
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula*	701	1.44
Hooded Merganser	*Lophodytes cucullatus*	600	1.24
Lesser Scaup	*Aytha affinis*	568	1.17
American Coot	*Fulica americana*	477	0.98
Bufflehead	*Bucephala albeola*	370	0.76
Little Blue Heron	*Egretta caerulea*	368	0.76
Unidentified Ducks	Anatidae	303	0.62
Northern Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*	294	0.61
Wood Stork	*Mycteria americana*	244	0.50
Unidentified Teal	*Anas* sp.	229	0.47
Sandpipers	Scolopacidae	196	0.40
Pied-billed Grebe	*Podilymbus podiceps*	160	0.33
White Pelican	*Pelicanus erythrorhynchos*	146	0.30
Anhinga	*Anhinga anhigna*	106	0.22
Canada Goose	*Branta canadensis*	100	0.21
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*	96	0.20
Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*	94	0.19
Tricolored Heron	*Hydranassa tricolor*	64	0.13
Unidentified Herons	Ardeidae	48	0.10
Willet	*Catotrophorus semipalmatus*	33	0.07
American Kestrel	*Falso sparverius*	30	0.06
White-faced Ibis	*Plegadis chihi*	28	0.06
Belted Kingfisher	*Megaceryle alcyon*	26	0.05
Roseate Spoonbill	*Ajaia ajaja*	25	0.05
Snow Goose	*Chen caerulescens*	22	0.05
Greater Yellowlegs	*Totanus melanoleucus*	21	0.04
American Avocet	*Recurvistora ameriana*	16	0.03
Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*	15	0.03
Red-shouldered Hawk	*Buteo lineatus*	13	0.03
Eared Grebe	*Podiceps nigricolis*	12	0.02
Northern Harrier	*Circus lyaneus*	12	0.02
Least Sandpiper	*Erolia minutilla*	9	0.02
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucopcephalus*	7	0.01
Green-backed Heron	*Butorides virescens*	7	0.01
Bonaparte's Gull	*Larus philadlephia*	6	0.01
Greater White-fronted Goose	*Anser albifrons*	5	0.01
Forster's Tern	*Sterna forsteri*	4	0.01
Redhead	*Aythya americana*	4	0.01
Least Tern	*Sterna albifrons*	3	0.01
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	3	0.01
Ruddy Duck	*Oxyura jamaicensis*	3	0.01
Black-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	3	0.01
Greater Scaup	*Aythya marila*	2	<0.01
Cinnamon Teal	*Anas cyanoptera*	1	<0.01

Table 1. Continued.

Common name	Species	Total number	% relative abundance
Common Snipe	*Capella gallinago*	1	<0.01
Cooper's Hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*	1	<0.01
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	*Dendrocygna bicolor*	1	<0.01
Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*	1	<0.01
Lesser Yellowlegs	*Totanus flavipes*	1	<0.01
		48,541	100.00

Endangered, Threatened, Peripheral and Rare Species

Three avian species included on either the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1988a) or State of Texas (31 Texas Administrative Code Sec. 65.17-65.117; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 1987) Threatened and Endangered Species lists and two species which are generally rare or uncommon in this vicinity (Arnold and Benson 1985) were frequently sighted in the course of the survey. Seven Bald Eagle sightings were recorded at four different ponds (6, 10, SP-1 and SP-4) during the winter months (November–February).

The Wood Stork, which is endangered in the eastern portion of its range and

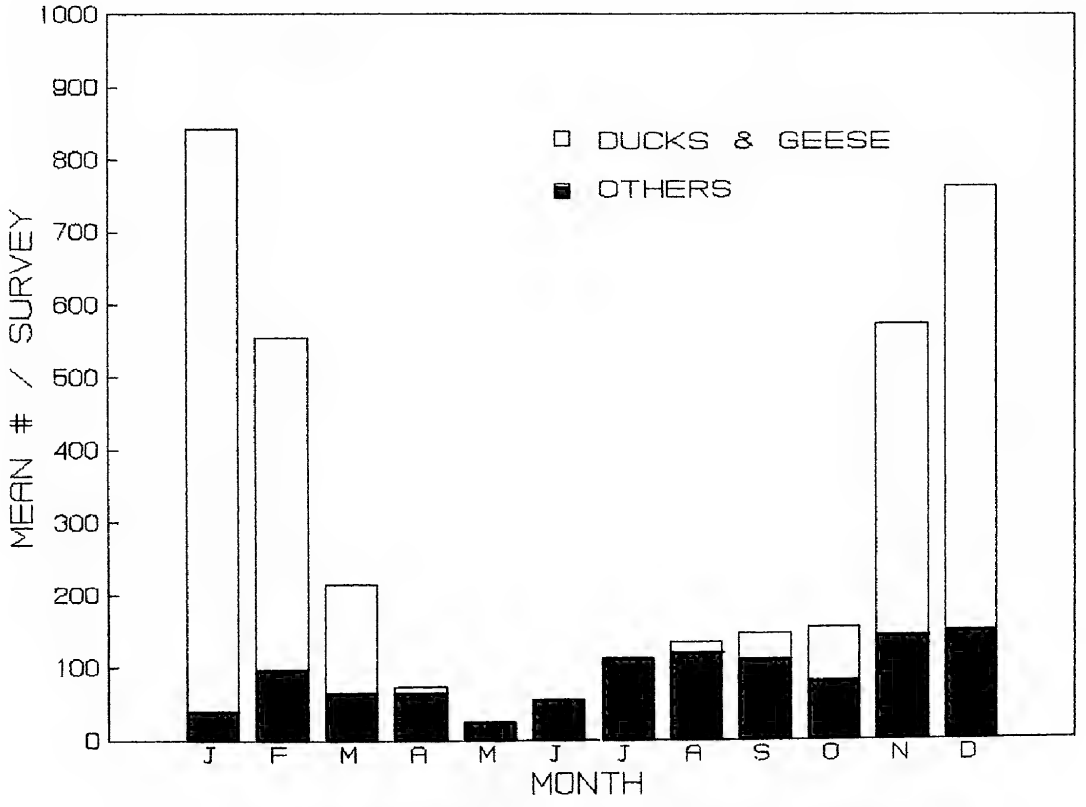

Fig. 1. Seasonality of waterbirds and raptors at Gibbons Creek Lignite Mine.

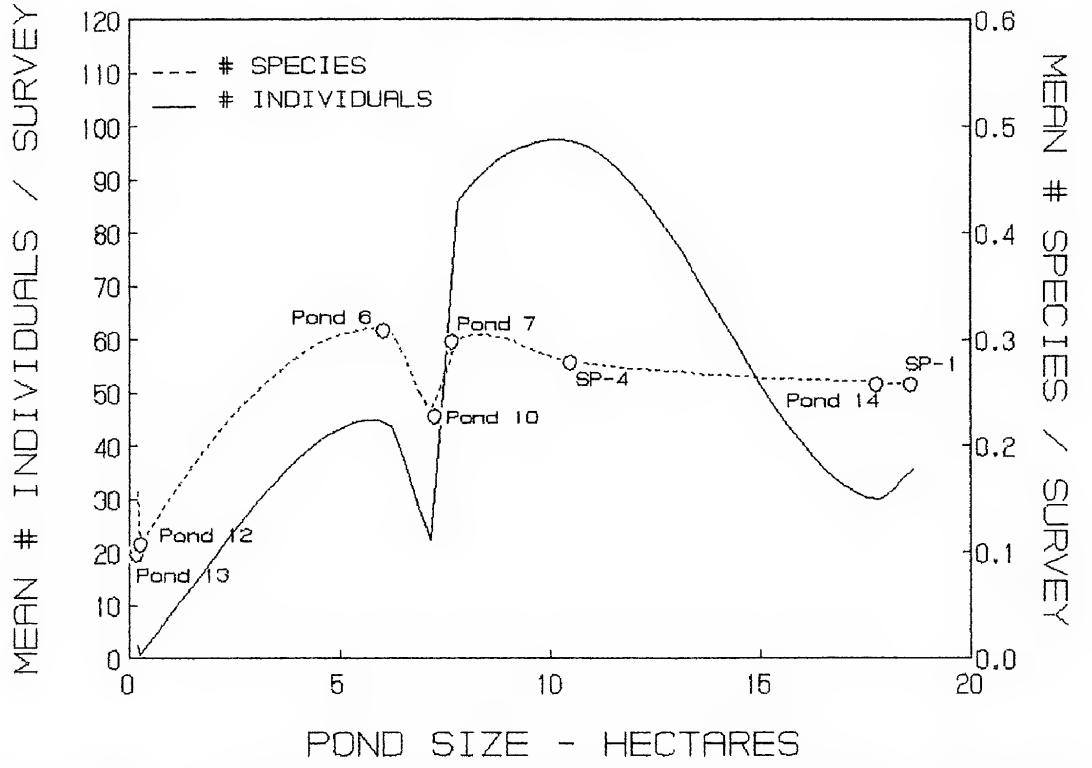

Fig. 2. Numbers of species and total numbers of individuals observed at Gibbons Creek Lignite Mine sedimentation ponds as a factor of pond size.

threatened in Texas, was seen on each of the larger ponds during the mid summer (June) to early fall (October) period. Two hundred and forty-four sightings were recorded during the survey. Medium to large concentrations of this species were also noted in other areas of the mine during the survey period.

Twenty-eight specimens of the White-faced Ibis, which is listed as threatened by the State of Texas, were sighted during the same periods and at the same ponds as Wood Storks.

Roseate Spoonbills and Tricolored Herons were observed during the summer and early fall periods. Tricolored Herons were seen on all ponds while Roseate Spoonbills were present on four of the larger ponds.

Two thousand, five hundred and forty Canvasbacks (5.23% of total numbers) were counted. The Canvasback, which has an undesirably low population in the Central Flyway (USFWS 1988b), was observed during the fall/early spring periods. This diving duck appeared most commonly on the deeper ponds.

Conclusions

High numbers of water birds and raptors utilize the sedimentation ponds at Gibbons Creek Lignite Mine, especially during the fall/winter. While all of the species observed during the survey are probably present at certain times in the Navasota River and Gibbons Creek bottomlands, natural wetlands are not always available. The sedimentation ponds surveyed provide stable alternative wetlands which attract and hold a wide variety and high numbers of waterbirds and raptors.

Literature Cited

Arnold, K. A., and R. H. Benson. 1985. A checklist of birds for Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Lee, Leon, Madison, Robertson, Waller, Washington counties, Texas. Sponsored by the Rio Brazos Audubon Society. 16 pp.

Code of Federal Regulations. 30CFR715.17.

Railroad Commission of Texas. 1981. Lignite Surface Mining Operation Permit #6; 6 Bond 26.

Texas Administrative Code. 31TAC Sec. 65.17–65.117.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. 1987. Threatened and endangered species bulletin. PWD-L-7100-22-3/87. 6 pp.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1982. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit TX0083101.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1988a. Endangered and threatened species of Texas and Oklahoma, 1987 (with 1988 addendum). 132 pp.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1988b. Final; supplemental environmental impact statement: Issuance of annual regulations permitting the sport hunting of migratory birds. 340 pp.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Do Northern Harriers Deliberately Flush Quarry in Front of Oncoming Vehicles?

Steve West

Box 2489, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

On 25 November 1990 while traveling between Pecos and Saragosa, Reeves County, Texas on State Highway 17 I observed large numbers of Lark Buntings (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) feeding along the sides of the road. Much of the land on either side of the fence was under cultivation or badly overgrazed leaving minimal natural vegetation on which the buntings and other birds could feed. Uncultivated neighboring land has stands of four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), and salt cedar (*Tamarix* species). These same plants largely have been removed from the roadsides, but the disturbance climax type of habitat that prevails along highways encourages the growth of exotics such as belvedere (*Kochia scoparia*), a winter source of food for many birds. Recent drought had probably made the birds even more dependent on vegetation along the sides of the highway.

Between Saragosa and Verhalen at about 1020 Central Standard Time I observed a male Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) flying along the fence lines, flushing ahead of him large flocks of Lark Buntings and a few White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*). As had been the pattern earlier along this road, the birds would flush, fly across the road a time or two and eventually land back in the vegetation or on the ground.

One flock of buntings was flushed by the harrier. The flock flew directly in front of the car, and then flew back across the road directly into the path of the car. One bird (a male with some vestiges of breeding plumage) struck the windshield and flew up and over the car, landing on the highway behind me. I looked immediately in the rear view mirror and the male harrier grabbed the bird within a second or two of its hitting the ground and flew away with it.

It is possible that this is all coincidence. A Northern Harrier just happened to be in the right place at the right time and took advantage of the situation, ending up with an easy meal. But it may be a bit more than coincidence.

I drove this stretch of highway between Pecos and Saragosa twice the same day, once from about 0955–1030 and again from 1045–1120 Central Standard Time. The distance is about 47 km one way. During this time I saw a total of six Northern Harriers (some may have been duplicates on the return trip). One was a male, at least three of the birds were adult females and two were unknown but were either females or immature birds. All 6 harriers were hunting along the highway, using the sides of the road to and just beyond the fence line. Good numbers of harriers are usual at this season. Prior to the drought, and the present overgrazed state of

the surrounding country, harriers usually fed throughout the area. Drought conditions, overgrazing and runoff precipitation encouraged plant growth along roadsides, prey for harriers and harrier activity.

During the two drives on 25 November 1990, harriers were seen in this narrow band but not in the adjacent desert. No birds, except for the Lark Bunting mentioned above, were found or seen dead on the road or along the sides. Normally one would expect to see several on a drive of this length with as many birds as were feeding along the roadside. I compared this section with the section north of Pecos, Texas to the New Mexico state line along U.S. 285 driven on the same date. I did not see any Northern Harriers, nor any concentrations of Lark Buntings or similar species. The vegetative conditions were not as described above. The area north of Pecos is drier with very few stands of *Kochia*. I saw six road kills along this stretch of road and no Northern Harriers. I did not examine these road kills but they appeared to range from the size of Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) to *Spizella*-sized birds.

It is obvious that harriers make use of road kills as a food source. But do they consciously flush birds in the hope of driving them before vehicles and thus increasing the number of road kills on which they feed?

Loggerhead Shrike Kills Common Ground-Dove

Stanley D. Casto

Department of Biology, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor,
Belton, Texas 76513

During the morning of 18 January 1992, while standing along a roadside near Millett, La Salle County, Texas, I observed what seemed to be two birds locked together in a power dive toward the ground. Turning for a better view, I saw a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) about 15 meters away standing over the body of a Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*). The shrike then delivered 3–4 bites to the base of the dove's skull causing it to flutter and attempt to escape. This behavior was repeated 7–8 times over the next three minutes until the dove showed no evidence of life. The shrike was reluctant to leave its prey, allowing me to approach within 3–4 meters before flying about 5 meters away where it alighted on the ground. Only when I picked up the dead dove did the shrike fly into the trees on the opposite side of the road.

The mass of the freshly-killed bird was 42 grams. A postmortem examination showed only a small amount of external blood. Hematomas were present under the skin at the base of the skull and throughout the neck region. Following dissection, I found that the vertebral column and spinal cord were broken between the first and second cervical vertebrae, appearing to have been pinched apart by the crushing force of the shrike's bite. The preserved dove (Cat. No. 764) is deposited in the collection at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

At least 29 species of small birds are known to be preyed upon by the Loggerhead Shrike (Balda 1965; Bent 1950; Brewster 1938; Clark and Kendall 1986; Conley

1982; Cummings 1951; Esterly 1917; Graham 1990; Holt 1913; Ingold and Ingold 1987; Judd 1898; Miller 1931; Pearson et al. 1959; Stephens 1906; Wayne 1921; and Wiggins 1962). The only previous record of predation on the Common Ground-Dove is that of Judd (1898). The presence of a broken neck following attack by a Loggerhead Shrike has been previously noted in a Northern Cardinal, Northern Mockingbird, and Mourning Dove (Ingold and Ingold 1987; Holt 1913; and Balda 1965).

Literature Cited

Balda, R. P. 1965. Loggerhead Shrike kills Mourning Dove. Condor 67:359.

Bent, A. C. 1950. Life histories of North American wagtails, shrikes, vireos, and their allies. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 197 (Dover reprint).

Brewster, W. 1938. The birds of Lake Umbagog Region of Maine, Pt. 4. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 66:525–620 [Bank Swallow and Eastern Bluebird].

Clark, W. H., and S. S. Kendall. 1986. First record of the Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca,* from the central desert in Baja California, Mexico. Southw. Nat. 31:544 [warbler later killed by shrike].

Conley, M. R. 1982. Apparent predation on Horned Lark by Loggerhead Shrike. Southw. Nat. 27: 367.

Cummings, F. 1951. Towhee is shrike's prey. Migrant 22:25.

Esterly, C. O. 1917. How does the shrike carry its prey? Condor 19:25 [White-crowned Sparrow].

Graham, G. G. 1990. Loggerhead Shrike takes House Sparrow. Blue Jay 48:41–42.

Holt, E. G. 1913. Notes on the Loggerhead Shrike at Barachias, Montgomery Co., Alabama. Auk 30:276–277 [Northern Mockingbird].

Ingold, J. J., and D. A. Ingold. 1987. Loggerhead Shrike kills and transports a Northern Cardinal. J. Field Ornithol. 58:66–68.

Judd, S. D. 1898. The food of shrikes. Biol. Surv. Bull. No. 9, pp. 15–26 [13 species of prey birds listed].

Miller, A. H. 1931. Systematic revision and natural history of the American shrikes (*Lanius*). Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool. 38:11–242.

Pearson, T. B., C. S. Brimley, and H. H. Brimley. 1942. Birds of North Carolina. North Carolina Dept. Agric., 1959 revision [Yellow-rumped Warbler and Chipping Sparrow].

Stephens, K. 1906. Some items in the diet of California shrikes. Condor 8:130 [young quail and Horned Lark].

Wayne, A. T. 1921. The Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) seen killing a large bird. Auk 38: 279–280 [Eastern Phoebe and Palm Warbler].

Wiggins, I. L. 1962. Horned Lark captured in flight by Loggerhead Shrike. Condor 64:78–79.

NOTES AND NEWS

Information for Contributors

ATTENTION AUTHORS.—The *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society* is a semi-annual journal which publishes original research reports and short communications in the field of ornithology. Articles on a wide range of subjects are accepted, including documentation of new Texas records, interpretations of laboratory and field studies, historical perspectives on Texas ornithology, and developments in theory and methodology. Although the emphasis is on Texas birds, the *Bulletin* accepts papers which advance the knowledge of birds in general.

Manuscripts, including tables, should be typed and double-spaced on one side of 8½ × 11 inch (22 × 28 cm) white paper. Allow 3 cm margins on all sides. Manuscripts may be printed using a high-resolution dot-matrix or letter-quality printer. The last name of the first author must be at the top of each page of the manuscript and on the back of every figure. Submitted articles should follow the format observed in this and subsequent issues of the *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society*. Feature articles should include an abstract and a "Literature Cited" section. Short Communications do not need an abstract.

Scientific and common names of North American birds must follow the 1983 A.O.U. Check-list and supplements. The 24-hour clock (0730), the continental dating convention (3 January 1989), and the metric system should be used.

Submit an original and two complete copies of the manuscript. Each manuscript will be subject to editing and will normally be reviewed by at least two persons who are knowledgeable in the subject. The reviewers will provide the editor with advice on the article's acceptability and accuracy. If the article passes review and is correct in form, it will be scheduled for publication. A voluntary page charge of $35 per printed page will be assessed. Payment of complete page charges will normally result in earlier publication. Accepted articles will be published on a "space available" basis if the page charges are not paid. Authors will be sent proofs of their articles prior to the final printing; information on ordering reprints will be supplied at that time.

Articles, reports and other items submitted for inclusion in the *Bulletin* should be sent to the editor, Karen L. P. Benson, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2258.

The *Bulletin* and *Newsletter* of the *Texas Ornithological Society* are issued to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership in the *Texas Ornithological Society* is open to all persons interested in observation, study, and conservation of birds in Texas. Membership dues are $9.00 per year (student), $15.00 per year (active), $30.00 per year (sustaining), $300.00 paid once, or in $75.00 annual payments over a period not to exceed four years (life). Inquiries regarding membership should be addressed to Jolene Boyd, 326 Live Oak, Ingram TX 78025.

Printed at Allen Press, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas 66044

THIS PUBLICATION IS PRINTED ON ACID-FREE PAPER.

BULLETIN
OF THE
TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

KAREN L. P. BENSON, Editor
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TOMBALL,
TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 94